

We claim:

1. The use of crosslinked cationic polymers preparable by
5 polymerization of
 - a) 1 to 99.9% by weight, based on the total amount of monomers used for the preparation of the polymer, of at least one cationic or cationogenic vinyl group-containing
10 monomer chosen from the group consisting of N-vinylimidazoles, diallylamines, dialkylaminoalkyl(meth)acrylamides and dialkylaminoalkyl(meth)acrylamides and dialkylaminoalkyl (meth)acrylates,
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 - b) 0 to 99% by weight, based on the total amount of monomers used for the preparation of the polymer, of at least one neutral or basic water-soluble monomer different from (a),
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 - c) 0 to 50% by weight, based on the total amount of monomers used for the preparation of the polymer, of at least one unsaturated acid or one unsaturated anhydride,
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 - d) 0 to 50% by weight of at least one free-radically copolymerizable monomer different from (a), (b) or (c); and
 - e) 0.05 to 10% by weight, based on the total amount of monomers used for the preparation of the polymer, of at least one crosslinking monomer with at least two ethylenically unsaturated, nonconjugated double bonds,
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35 where the amounts a) to e) are chosen such that the resulting polymer, optionally after quaternization or protonation, has an overall positive charge,

in water in the presence of

5 f) 1 to 100% by weight of the saturation amount in the reaction medium of one or more organic or inorganic salts, and

10 g) 0.1 to 30% by weight, based on the total weight of the dispersion, of at least one water-soluble protective colloid with a composition different from a) to e), and

15 subsequent at least partial quaternization for cases where the monomer (a) is not quaternized,

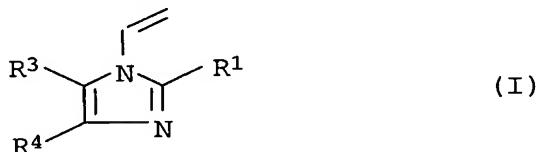
in cosmetics.

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2. The use as claimed in claim 1 in hair cosmetics.

3. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the free-radically polymerizable vinyl group-containing cationic monomer used is

20 at least one N-vinylimidazole derivative of the formula (I),



in which the radicals R¹ to R³, independently of one another, are hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl.

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4. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the free-radically polymerizable vinyl group-containing cationic monomer used is at least one diallylamine derivative of the formula (II),

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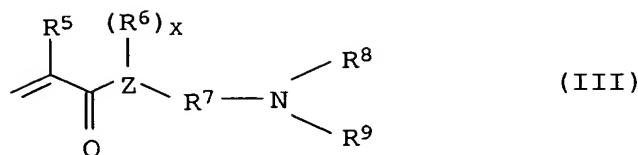


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in which the radical R⁴ is C₁-C₂₄-alkyl..

45 5. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the free-radically polymerizable vinyl group-containing cationic monomer used is at least one dialkylaminoalkyl(meth)acrylamide and dialkylaminoalkyl (meth)acrylate of the formula (III),

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in which R⁵ and R⁶, independently of one another, are hydrogen or methyl, Z is a nitrogen atom where x=1 or an oxygen atom where x=0, R⁷ is a linear or branched C₁-C₂₄-alkylene radical, and R⁸ and R⁹, independently of one another, are a C₁-C₂₄-alkylene radical.

6. The use as claimed in claim 1, where the monomer (b) used is at least one N-vinyllactam.

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7. The use as claimed in claim 1 as conditioning agent or thickener.

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